GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:437
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
WLL TECHNOLOGY IN RURAL AREAS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections are being provided under WLL system in the rural areas where there has been shortage of cable;

(b) whether solar chargers have been provided for telephone connections under the WLL system in those villages which have not been electrified so far;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is not providing solar chargers to the villages which are not electrified and in which telephone connections have been provided under the WLL system;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken for redressal of such complaints?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Solar chargers are not being provided for telephone connections on WLL systems except for Village Public Telephones (VPTs). Some complaints were received from UP(E) Telecom Circle in regard to provision of WLL connections in non-electrified villages where the applicants were demanding solar panels and chargers. Guidelines were issued to the Telecom Circles in August 2002 not to provide WLL Telephones in non-electrified villages. However, exception has been permitted in the cases where the applicant has no objection to installation of WLL telephone despite normal power not being available. It would not be possible for BSNL to provide solar chargers for non-VPT WLL telephone connections.